

# Getting to Know You

## DSMC Commandant Shares Life Experiences, Inspires, Motivates High School Students

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It is 10:05 a.m., Feb. 25, and the scene is typical as the students of the Bryant Adult Alternative High School in Alexandria, Va., file through the double doors and enter the school library to listen to a guest speaker from the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC).

The students glance at the Navy Admiral dressed to military perfection, but they soon discover that this is not going to be a typical school program, and this is no ordinary visitor.

Navy Rear Adm. "Lenn" Vincent, DSMC Commandant, visited Bryant School in connection with a partnership that DSMC has had with the alternative school since 1993.

The purpose for his visit was to tour the school and address the students. "The Admiral's visit helps him to get a feel for our school and will allow us to get to know him better," explained Jan McKee, Principal, Bryant School.

"I feel that it is very important that we reach to our community and our community reaches out to us, and that is what this business partnership is about," said McKee.

The partnership with DSMC helps Bryant students meet their academic needs by providing opportunities for job shadowing, mentoring, and tutoring.

In addition, DSMC has assisted Bryant by designing brochures and producing a video about the school, as well as donating excess computer equipment.



Technical support, training, and consulting is provided in the areas of computer automation, library services, and the school-fitness program.

The partnership also makes provisions for meeting the student's personal needs by donating food, winter coats, and professional clothing resulting from DSMC's fall and winter clothing and food drives.

"We try to help the students to get past tomorrow," said McKee. "If we make any impact, we have to start from today and move forward."

The program offered through the Bryant Alternative School achieves this and al-

PRESENTATION OF THE DSMC PARTNERSHIP PLAN FOR THE 1998/1999 SCHOOL YEAR TO BRYANT ADULT ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL. PICTURED FROM LEFT: NAVY REAR ADM. "LENN" VINCENT, DSMC COMMANDANT; JAN MCKEE, PRINCIPAL, BRYANT SCHOOL; ARMY COL. JOSEPH JOHNSON, DEAN, DIVISION OF COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES, DSMC.

lows a diverse population of more than 450 students who reside in Fairfax County to earn their high school diploma outside of the traditional school setting, according to McKee.

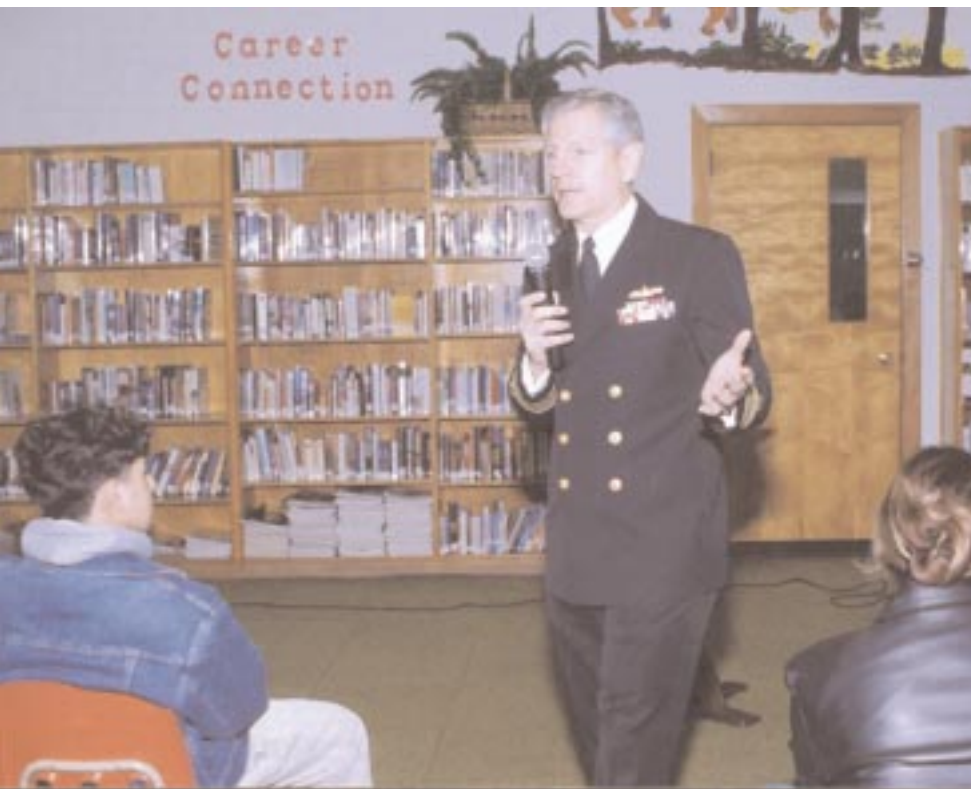
The success of the program is its ability to help the students build workplace

skills on a firm academic foundation, while allowing them to take advantage of flexible scheduling in an accelerated setting

Students attending Bryant need alternative education due to extenuating life circumstances. Some students are dealing with illness in their families, and

DSMC COMMANDANT, NAVY REAR ADM.

"LENN" VINCENT, SPEAKS TO STUDENTS AT BRYANT ADULT ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL, FAIRFAX, VA., FEB. 25. VINCENT TOLD THEM, "MAKE YOUR LIFE AN ADVENTURE, SET GOALS, AND WORK TOWARD THEM. YOU CAN DO ANYTHING ... DON'T GIVE UP!"



others are taking advantage of educational opportunities for pregnant and parenting young women, according to McKee.

Vincent had no trouble establishing a common ground with these students. He commended them for taking advantage of the opportunities offered to them through the Bryant program.

He shared with the students his own challenges as he grew up in a single-par-

ent home. But he stressed how continuing his education and accepting help from people who took an interest in him contributed to his success despite his circumstances.

Although Vincent's military career has required him to move 22 times in 33 years, he explained to the students how he was able to keep his focus, which has led to his success.

"Every time I went to a new job, I focused on the job that I was assigned to. And I focused on the people because it's really the people working together that get things done.

"If I can leave you with one thought, this may be it: work with people, enjoy them, enjoy what you do, and you will be a success."

For DSMC, focusing resources, mentors, and energy into the DSMC/Bryant Alternative High School partnership has led to a success story involving people working together and contributing to the future success of a unique group of students as they prepare to make their mark on the surrounding community.

## ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DAY 1999

With the theme "Electronic Business in Action," The Department of Defense Joint Electronic Commerce Program Office's Electronic Commerce Day 1999 will take place June 10 at the International Trade Center, The Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, DC.

Supporting the warfighter, industry trading partners, and DoD business functions, Electronic Commerce Day 1999 is a "must attend" event for EC professionals seeking to learn how the Department is incorporating the latest information technologies to fundamentally improve DoD business practices.

EC Day 1998, "Building on Success," marked a milestone in the Department's evolution to incorporate advanced technology solutions into the very fabric of business processes in support of the warfighter.

More than 3000 government and industry professionals attended. Keynote speakers included Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen; Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Dr. John J. Hamre; the Senior Civilian Official Assistant Secretary of Defense (C3I), the Honorable Art Money; and senior DoD officials and industry executives.

The inaugural EC Day showcased 26 government and commercial EC exhibits and officially opened the Joint Electronic Commerce Program Office (JECPO).

"We stand at a pivotal time in history ... to succeed in this uncertain future, we need to have a force for the future," said Cohen.

"The Joint Electronic Commerce Program Office will help to take defense business operations into the 21st century," said Hamre.

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Electronic Commerce Day 1999 is Sponsored by the Joint Electronic Commerce Office, in conjunction with the Association for Enterprise Integration Summer Symposium, and supported by the Electronic Commerce Resource Centers.

For more information about the DoD Electronic Commerce Day 1999, call the EC Answer Line at (800) 334-3414.